







**ANNUAL REPORTS**  
**OF THE**  
**S E L E C T M E N ,**  
**THE**  
**OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,**  
**AND THE**  
**SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,**  
**OF THE**  
**TOWN OF HUDSON,**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1863-4.**

New Hampshire  
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AUG 11 1896  
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**1864.**

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN.

THE

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

AND THE

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OF THE

TOWN OF HUDSON.

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1888



## REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

### STATE OF THE TREASURY.

Outstanding Taxes in J. M. Thompson's list, 1858.	9 09
Do. do J. Emery's, 1859,	61 66
Do. do. Caleb Richardson's, 1860,	21 42
Do. do. do. " 1861,	219 76
Do. do. do. " 1862,	537 71
Cash in the Treasury,	227 41

\$1077 05

DANIEL T. GAGE, } Selectmen  
SAMUEL GOWING, } of Hudson.

Hudson, Feb. 26, 1864.

### RECEIPTS.

Feb. 1864, whole amount as per above,	1077 05
Town, School, State and County Tax,	3865 08
Money borrowed,	329 00
R. Webster for support of Thomas Foot,	100 00
J. K. Wheeler, old bridge plank,	5 00
Boards sold at town farm,	68 11
B. F. Chase for support of E. Marsh,	60 00
Interest on taxes,	15 19
Received of County for support of Co. poor,	71 00
	<u>\$5590 43</u>
Outstanding orders of last year,	13 90
Available receipts,	5576 53

## DISBURSEMENTS.

## BILLS PAID FOR 1862-3 :

James Emery, abatement of taxes,	8 28
J. M. Thompson " "	9 09
Cyrus Cross, breaking Roads,	4 25
John Cross " "	4 00
Caleb Richardson, non-resident highway receipts,	5 87
G. W. Hills for relief of Mrs. Whittemore,	3 13
Nehemiah Hunt, do. do.	11 25
Josiah Cooke, do. do.	1 00
R. R. Strong part of salary at alms-house,	196 88
Ellen A. Strong for labor at do.	65 00
D. O. Smith, Medical attendance at do.	20 00
D. O. Smith, Superintending School Committee,	30 00
B. F. Emerson, legal council,	6 44
Caleb Richardson, in part for collecting taxes,	25 00
Albin Beard, printing town report,	28 00
K. Webster, surveying road,	6 50
D. T. Gage, in part for services as Selectman,	4 00
Alvan Smith, witness on town line case,	1 00
	<hr/>

\$465 61

## BILLS PAID FOR 1863-4.

Part of Daniel T. Davis's note,	100 00
J. R. Wheeler's note,	168 53
Willard Spaulding's note,	292 27
J. H. Steele land damages,	50 00
G. W. Trow, do.	35 00
J. N. Marshall, do.	203 00
Cyrus Cross, repairing highway,	5 25
N. P. Greene, blank books,	7 02
John Chase, clothing for Foot boy,	15 32
John Chase, Cash paid for the town,	3 65
John Chase, services as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor,	34 40
D. T. Gage, in part of do.	30 72
Alden Hill, in part of do.	38 00
Alden Hill, cash paid for the town,	50
D. T. Gage, cash paid for the town,	12 86
Gilman Andrews, over assessment,	83
E. J. Nichols, over assessment,	1 00
Frederick Steele, over assessment,	1 00
A. T. Blodgett, plank, posts and rails,	10 55
Pollard and Winn plank,	3 83
Samuel E. Merrill, relief of his son,	30 40
Miss F. V. Greeley, interest on her note,	30 00
Ellen A. Strong, labor at alms house,	20 00



Sylva Carlton, interest on her note,	15 00
Clement & Trow, for building new road,	250 00
Gilman Andrews part of note,	12 16
Alden Hill, repairing bridge,	43 84
D. B. Durgin, damage caused by defect in highway,	12 00
County Commissioners discontinuing Steele road,	31 80
K. Webster, surveying,	3 00
Alden Hill, school books for Foot boy,	1 08
Albin Beard, printing notices,	9 75
G. W. Hills goods delivered at alms-house,	40 60
Part of Luther Pollard's note,	16 01
Hiram March, for services as State aid com.	15 00
Dr. Graves, Medical attendance on Morey girl,	12 00
Marshall & Co., relief of Morey family,	6 45
Thomas Hills, for stamp and tax bills,	2 00
Thomas Hills, for highway receipts,	30 20
Eli Hamblet, services as treasurer and recording taxes,	15 00
James Emery, deed $\frac{3}{4}$ of Hudson common,	47 00
James Emery, medical attendance,	3 00
J. Carnes, guide boards, stone post and nails,	4 50
J. M. Harris, painting and lettering guide boards,	7 50
J. C. Dudley, lighting T. F. Bridge,	29 08
Insane Hospital, support of Thomas Foot,	145 45
Insane Hospital, support of Sarah Hadley,	150 05
	<u>\$2023 75</u>

### SCHOOL MONEY PAID.

District No. 1.—John Winn,	81 22
2.—W. F. Winn,	80 00
3.—Alpheus Goodwin,	68 00
4.—John Lennehan,	104 10
5.—Charles F. Dane,	84 32
6.—Tyler Thomas,	98 10
7.—David Clement, Jr.,	47 86
7.—Alphonso Robinson,	67 89
8.—Silas Hills,	60 00
9.—Richard R. Strong,	64 83
10.—Samuel Chase,	45 00
	<u>\$801 32</u>
State Tax,	1007 10
County Tax,	581 96
	<u>1589 06</u>
Whole amount of disbursements,	4879 74
Out standing orders,	104 91
	<u>4774 83</u>

Whole amount of receipts,  
Balance in favor of the town,

5576 53

801 70

We examined the Treasurer's accounts from Feb. 26, 1863,  
to Feb. 22, 1864, and find them well vouched and correctly cast.

The state of the Treasury Feb. 26, 1864, is as follows:

Out standing taxes in Caleb Richardson's list of

1860-1-2, 145 91

Thomas Hill's do. 1863, 676 25

8822 16

Due the Treasurer,

20 46

Balance in favor of the town,

801 70

DANIEL T. GAGE,

Selectmen

JOHN CHASE,

of

ALDEN HILL,

Hudson.

Hudson, Feb. 22, 1864.

The town is owing the following notes and bills:

Jacob Davis's note, 1017 60

John Burnham's note, 426 00

do do do. 413 40

Samuel Morrison's note, 336 87

do do do. 304 50

John Cumming's note, 386 61

David O. Smith's note, 1178 75

Mrs. Mary J. Mark's note, 1025 00

E. W. Upham, note, 3045 00

Miss Sylva Carlton, note, 307 50

Gilman Andrews, note, 650 00

Enoch S. Marsh, note, 101 00

Sarah Robbins, note, 1010 10

Luther Pollard, note, 1010 10

Sarah Clement, note, 1515 15

William Tuttle, note, 1010 00

Sybel M. Grant, note, 980 00

Daniel T. Gage, note, 131 75

Daniel Marshall note, 209 17

do do do. 411 33

Eli Hamblet, note, 206 80

Savings Bank, note, Union, 2050 00

Richard R. Strong, note, 208 97

17935 60



N. G. Waterman & Co. goods for alms-house,	55	80	
Bristol & Co., do do.	93	49	
C. F. Stetson, do do.	43	41	
Ellen A. Shorey for labor at do.	25	00	
R. R. Strong, balance of salary for 1863-4, do.	149	40	
D. T. Gage, part of services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	18	78	
School money not paid,	125	15	
			511 03
Whole amount of liabilities,			18446 63
Balance of receipts,	801	70	
Railroad tax not yet received, about	200	00	
Due from U. S. Government bounties for volunteers,	800	00	
Amount,			\$1801 70
Excess of liabilities over means,			16644 90
Borrowed by vote of the town to pay substitutes,			\$7875 00
Paid to conscripts,	1400	00	
" Eli Hamblet, recruiting officer,	6225	00	
" interest on E. W. Upham's note,	152	42	
" D. O. Smith's note,	58	47	
" part of Luther Pollard's note,	35	11	
" to Town Treasury,	4	00	
			\$7875 00

## REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

### EXPENDITURES AT TOWN FARM.

G. W. Hills for goods,	40	60	
C. F. Stetson, do.	43	41	
Bristol & Co.,	89	62	
D. O. Smith, medical attendance,	20	00	
Bills paid by the superintendent,	449	55	
Ellen A. Strong for labor,	45	00	
Salary of Mr. Strong,	200	00	
			\$888 18

## RECEIPTS.

At alms house,	460 41
Pierce & McQuesten for boards,	68 11
Due from Bixby for drawing wood,	40 00
Due from Avery for chopping,	30 00
Received for boarding County poor,	63 75
Due from County,	2 00
	<u>\$664 27</u>

Balance against the alms house, \$223 91

## EXPENSES OF THE FARM.

Insane Hospital for support of Mrs. Sarah Hadley,	150 05
Insane Hospital for support of Thomas Foot,	145 45
Relief of J. Corlis,	12 47
do. Luke Holmes,	4 98
do. Mrs. George Whittemore,	1 00
do. Josiah K. Merrill,	30 80
do. J. Chase for Foot boy,	15 32
do. Nehemiah Hunt for Mrs. Whittemore,	11 25
do. Alden Hill for H. S. Foot,	1 08
Dr. Graves, Marshall & Co.,	18 45
James Emery,	3 00
	<u>\$393 85</u>
Received from County,	4 98
Kimball Webster for support of Thomas Foot,	100 00
Total receipts,	<u>\$104 98</u>
Balance against the town,	\$288 87
Balance against the alms house added,	223 91
Total balance against the town,	<u>\$512 78</u>

The number of inmates at the alms house is 6. Mr. Strong has built about 20 rods of wall the present year. The stock yards are well supplied with muck for manure. The barns are much improved by repairs, costing the town only about \$19. Mr. Strong and his wife have concluded to stop another year for \$210.



# INVOICE OF STOCK AND PROVISIONS AT THE TOWN FARM.

130 bushels potatoes, 78, 150 lbs. beef, 12, 140 lbs. pork, 64.80,	154 80
10 bushels turnips, 2, 6 casks cider, 15, 10 cider casks, 10,	27 00
Garden sauce, 2, 5 barrels apples, 10, 2½ casks vinegar, 13,	25 00
82 lbs butter, 24, 20 doz. candles, 3, 2½ gal- lons pickles, 3.50,	30 50
25 lbs. tallow, 3.50, 100 lbs. lard, 14, 4 bush- els peas, 8,	25 50
7½ bushels white beans, 15, 6 do. colored, 9, 70 lbs. dried apple, 5.60,	30 30
6 gallons apple sauce, 1.92, 8 ox yokes, 1.75, 5 hay forks, 1.00,	4 67
6 chains, 3, 3 ladders, 1.25, 1 drag, 50, 2 har- rows, 7,	11 75
1 winnowing mill, 3, 2 ox carts 35, 1 ox wag- on, 15,	53 00
1 travers sled, 40, 3 shovels and 5 manure forks, 3,	43 00
8 hoes, 1.50, 2 crow bars, 2, 1 hay cutter, 2.50, 5 plows, 15,	21 00
6 rakes, 11 bags, 3.25, set dry measures, 75,	4 00
5 baskets, 1.25, 2 iron wedges, 50, 2 robes, harness and bells, 35.50,	37 25
Carpenters' tools, 2.50, 6 scythes and snaths, 4, 3 do. bush, 2.50,	7 00
Lot of oak and pine lumber, 32, 1 grind stone, 1.75,	33 75
1½ M. shingles, 5.50, 2 wood saws, 1, 2 turkeys, 20 hens, 8,	14 50
Horse wagon, 15, 2-3 barrel flour, 6, 6 gallons boiled cider, 2.52,	23 52
Hams, 29.16, sausages, 4.20, fresh meat, 8,	41 36
2 barrels soap, 7, 1-2 bushel salt, 1, 50 do. corn, 72.50,	81 00
20 bushels oats, 14, log chain, 1.50, 2 bushels rye, 3,	18 50
6 bushels barley, 7, 12 tons English hay, 216, 3 do. run, 36,	259 00
Straw and corn fodder, 6, 4 oxen 270, 6 cows, 150,	420 00
10 young cattle, 125, 4 shoats, 60,	61 85
	<hr/> \$1429 25





# REPORT

OF THE

## SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The following is the Report of the Superintending School Committee, for the year ending March, 1864.

### DISTRICT NO. I.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss Ellen M. Gowing, an experienced, energetic and efficient teacher. Order, system and accuracy—essential elements of success—were particularly noticeable during the term. Diligence and perseverance seemed to be the motto of both teacher and scholar ; and as a result, a good degree of improvement was made. The recitations at the examination were all quite satisfactory, especially those in Grammar, Reading and Spelling. The attendance was more regular than in some previous terms, indicating a corresponding and commendable *increase of interest* on the part of pupils and parents. In her remarks the teacher says, "Out of twenty-eight visits by citizens and others, not one has been that of a parent. They have been careful generally to supply books and uphold a teacher in sustaining order, but their occasional presence in the school-room would encourage teacher and pupils, and do much towards awakening an interest in school duties." Charlotte T. Ford, Lizzie F. Ford and Willie B. Merrill, are reported as being neither absent nor tardy.

The Winter Term was commenced by Mr. A. Davis of Nashua. Mr. D. came well recommended and sustained an unusually satisfactory examination. When first visited the prospects for a successful term were ordinarily promising ; but subsequently an incongruity of feeling, exceedingly prejudicial to the welfare of the school, was gradually developed between the teacher and several of the larger scholars. An investigation revealed certain unbecoming irregularities on the part of the teacher, the result, doubtless, of inexperience and youthful inadvertency, which served to

destroy his influence and usefulness and render the yielding of the school advisable at the expiration of five weeks. There was a formal examination, but it is believed that most of the scholars made considerable progress during the short term. For the edification of young teachers and others, it may not be improper to insert the following paragraph from the Statutes of our State respecting the duties of teachers.

“It shall be the duty of all persons entrusted with or engaged in the instruction of the young, diligently to impress upon their minds the principles of piety and justice; a sacred regard to truth, love of country, humanity and benevolence; sobriety, industry and frugality; chastity, moderation and temperance; and all other virtues which are the ornament and support of human society; and to endeavor to lead them into a particular understanding of the tendency of all such virtues to preserve and perfect a republican form of government, to secure the blessings of liberty and to promote their future happiness, and the tendency of the opposite vices to degradation, ruin and slavery.” (R. S. Chap. 73, Sec. 16.)

#### DISTRICT NO. II.

Teacher of Summer Term, Miss Abba E. Winn. This was Miss W.'s first attempt at teaching; and, although a native of the district and a pupil of the preceding term, she succeeded in winning the confidence and esteem of her scholars, maintaining good order and proving herself an active and energetic teacher. The course of instruction seemed to be thorough, and all the classes acquitted themselves honorably at the examination, particularly those in Spelling and Geography. More than usual attention was given to Writing, and the books were generally cleanly and neat. No. of visitors 25.

The Winter Term was taught by Mr. Andrew J. Tuck of Nashua. Mr. T. was totally inexperienced in the management of a district school, and, being quite young, some degree of solicitude was felt as to the result of his labors. At the first visit of the Committee the order was quite imperfect; but a marked improvement in this respect was soon apparent and continued through the term. Good feeling obviously existed between teacher and scholar, and more than an ordinary degree of interest seemed to pervade the entire school. The closing examination was animated and successful—good progress being made by all—especially the class in Grammar and the younger classes in Reading. The care taken in *Writing* is worthy of notice. The books, 18 in number, were nearly all of Payson, Dunton & Scribner's series, neatly covered, preserved, and modestly, but with no degree of shame, presented to the Committee. The presentation of a Bible Dictionary by the pupils, as a souvenir, indicated the kind of feeling which should always exist between teacher and scholar. No. of visitors 55.



## DISTRICT NO. III.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss Lizzie A. Goodwin. This school is very small in summer, averaging but eight pupils ; nevertheless Miss G. labored with earnestness and gave entire satisfaction to all interested. The order was good and the little class in the Primer and Emerson's Arithmetic gave evidence of having received patient and thorough instruction. This was Miss G's first experience in teaching. No. of visitors 15.

The Winter Term was in charge of Miss M. J. Butler of Pelham,—an inexperienced but faithful teacher,—possessing tact and the general elements of character which usually ensure success. The average attendance was larger than in some past terms, and each class and each scholar evinced a good degree of fondness for study. From necessity the school was examined some days before its close ; but the exercises were all satisfactory, teacher and scholar deserving much credit for mutual industry. May success continue to attend Miss B. in this department of effort. No. of visitors 29.

## DISTRICT NO. IV.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss Addie E. Shedd of Merrimack. Miss S. is a teacher of considerable experience, a good scholar, and evidently entered upon her labors with a strong determination to do her whole duty. From some cause, not perfectly obvious, she failed to get the good will of all her scholars, and the citizens of the district exhibited an unusual amount of disinterestedness. According to the Register but *one* parent visited the school during the term. Can it be reasonably expected that *pupils will be interested* while the *parents* are thus remiss and heedless ? Nevertheless the school was orderly and studious at each visit of the Committee, and the closing examination proved that the teacher had labored with a fidelity worthy of commendation and that a large proportion of the scholars present had made encouraging progress, particularly the classes in Geography and Reading. Misses Lydia Bachelder, Georgianna Gillis and Alfaretta Bachelder are reported as having been neither absent, tardy nor dismissed during the term. No. of visitors 53.

The Winter Term was commenced by S. Josie Kidder of Tyngsborough—an amiable, well-qualified and practical teacher. When first visited this school never appeared better, and the prospect for a successful term was most encouraging. At the expiration of three weeks insufficient and declining health compelled her to yield the school, a necessity which caused regret on the part of pupils and parents. The term was continued without intermission by her sister, Miss Martha B. Kidder, an experienced teacher, highly recommended for efficiency. The discipline of the school was thor-

ough, and by some thought to be severe. Possibly some of the *methods* of correction were not perfectly faultless, but it should be remembered that in such a school as this it is absolutely necessary that every reasonable regulation be rigidly and resolutely enforced and *obeyed*. New forms and modes of discipline and instruction usually attend a change of teachers ; and so long as our community persist in the latter may they expect the former. A few of the larger scholars made the school more uncomfortable for the teacher and far less profitable to themselves than it otherwise might have been. What folly ! At the examination a large number of classes were heard with much satisfaction by the committee and the usual number of citizens. The right kind and about the right amount of attention was given to *spelling* which is so often neglected that the fact deserves notice. More than usual attention was given to Writing and the specimens exhibited excited the admiration of all. The appearance of the school was impaired by the absence of a considerable number of pupils, but all the classes, particularly in Grammar and Arithmetic, gave evidence of having received very accurate and systematic instruction. No of visitors 53.

#### DISTRICT NO. V.

Summer Term—Miss Addeliza P. Hills, Teacher. Miss H. being a thorough disciplinarian, is popular where good order is properly appreciated ; having a firm conviction that a public school without order is simply a nuisance and ought speedily to be abated.—The school now stands among the best we have. At all the visits of the committee the scholars observed the most respectful order and seemed determined on the one object of acquiring knowledge. Some of the older scholars deserve a high place in point of diligence, good scholarship and courteous manners. The course of instruction was thorough, and all the classes at the examination reflected much credit upon themselves and teacher. No class will suffer in comparison with others in town, while the few more advanced scholars still maintain their rank among the very best. No, of visitors 82, nearly one half of the number being parents.

The Winter School was taught by Miss M. Frances Gould of Tyngsboro', whose reputation as a successful teacher is, perhaps, a sufficient guarantee of its prosperity. The labors of the day were thoroughly systematised, every thing being so arranged that there was no friction—each wheel revolving in its proper place.—Scholars were required to *learn* and *understand* their lessons, and not simply to "learn a little, guess a great deal and jump at conclusions." Among the several classes that did themselves honor at the examination and knew no such word as "fail," those in Grammar, Geography and Colburn's Arithmetic should be especially mentioned. Ten in Summer and four in Winter are reported as being neither absent nor tardy. No. of visitors 47.



## DISTRICT NO. VI.

The Summer Term was in charge of Miss Lizzie A. Porter of Nashua. This was Miss Porter's first effort. She is young in years, but has a taste for teaching, is well fortified with confidence and has a strong disposition to make her mark. With some additional experience and a judicious application of her best qualities she will be able to perform a large amount of labor in the school-room with accuracy and profit. The order, somewhat imperfect at first, was improved the latter part of the term.

The exercises at the examination were as varied and interesting as could be reasonably expected from so small a number of pupils, and the classes, particularly in Reading and Arithmetic, certainly evinced no ordinary amount of interest and improvement. No. of visitors 33.

The Winter Term was under the instruction of Mr. Jesse J. McMurphy of Derry. The task of teaching school was a new one to Mr. M; yet, good literary acquirements enabled him to overcome many of the difficulties incident to the position of a young teacher. Nevertheless, more sternness, energy, accurate and systematic discipline and more solicitude in preserving inviolate the dignity which should characterise every teacher of youth, would have materially enhanced his usefulness as an instructor. The order was imperfect at each visit of the Committee, and though faithfully admonished, but little improvement was manifest at the examination;—the exercises being much impaired by an inexcusable amount of whispering and restlessness;—(a portion of it by young visitors; )—a general sluggishness of action and a feeble, defective intonation quite unusual for this school. The classes in Algebra, National Arithmetic and the first class in Reading deserve an honorable mention, having made good progress and able to sustain a tolerably critical examination. Composition, Declamation and Writing should have been among the order of studies and pursued by a large portion of the school. No. of visitors, 20.

## DISTRICT NO. VII.

Summer Term—Miss L. Jennie Gould of Tyngsboro', Teacher. This was Miss G's second term of school in this district, and is an evidence that her excellent services as a teacher are properly appreciated. No one labors with more fidelity or with more interest in the discharge of the duties allotted to the schoolroom. She seems to understand that whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well. The classes in Reading and Spelling received an amount of training in the consonant combinations and the general elementary principles, far exceeding that of any other school in town, and cannot but be of lasting utility. The order was good. In her "remarks" she says, "many thanks are due our kind friends the past term for the friendly interest that has been manifested in the labors

bestowed upon the school. The effort to dispense with whispering has been quite successful; having been almost entirely abolished." The exercises at the examination were witnessed with apparent satisfaction by a very considerable number of the citizens of the district. No. of visitors 50.

The Winter Term was taught by Miss Nellie Greeley of Nashua. This was Miss G's first experience in the management of a District School. She succeeded, however, by arduous, patient industry in awakening a good degree of interest and gaining the unqualified confidence and respect of pupils and parents. The discipline was mild and simple yet firm and efficient. Each class was required to observe accuracy and to give *undivided attention during each recitation*,—a most rational requisition and worthy of imitation. Through misunderstanding in respect to the time for the examination, but few citizens were present; but it is not too much to say that in no instance was there a shadow of failure in any of the exercises. Fourteen attended to Penmanship and the specimens exhibited were praiseworthy. No. of visitors 42.

#### DISTRICT NO. VII.

Teacher Summer Term, Miss Augusta A. Gibson of Nashua.—This school is composed of a large number of small scholars, requiring the exercise of much patience on the part of the teacher and the possession of a natural fondness for children. At the first visit of the committee, there seemed to be a lack of efficiency and enthusiasm sufficient to rouse up the intellect and awaken thought in the young and tender minds. Three things were apparently wanting; 1st, a capacity to dispatch business with facility; 2d, a systematic discipline; 3d, a systematic mode of teaching. The pupils did not, evidently, do their best at the examination, either from want of confidence in themselves or their teacher. Still, Miss G. manifested a disposition to do her whole duty, and some perceptible progress was made. The writing books all looked well, and the Register was kept according to the prescribed directions. No. of visitors 50.

The Winter School was taught by Miss V. L. George of Chester. This was Miss G.'s second term in this district, and was apparently as successful as the first. The order was good, an air of cheerfulness, buoyancy and withal regularity were prominently characteristic. Good progress was made by the Reading and Spelling classes, and, all things considered, the class in Colburn's Arithmetic is not excelled by any in town. In short, the term was profitable and pleasant, and more than ordinary improvement was observed in the studies of all the pupils. The exercises at the examination were interspersed with Declamations. The specimens of Penmanship are worthy of special commendation, considering the



age of the pupils. Several of the scholars are reported as being neither absent nor tardy. No. of visitors 37.

#### DISTRICT NO. IX.

Both terms of this school were taught by Miss Mattie F. Marsh. This is the only district which has not acted upon the impolitic custom of changing teachers not only every year but every *term* in the year. *Good teachers are to be sought out*; and when a district is so fortunate as to obtain the one adapted to their particular wants and in whom the citizens generally confide, she should be kept for a series of terms or until the district is confident that a change would be advantageous; for at best it is but an experiment. And moreover, to see thorough, well qualified and uniformly successful teachers in our own community, rejected for young and inexperienced persons, of whose moral, social and educational habits we are comparatively ignorant, many of whom are trained exclusively in city schools, and have therefore, but crude conceptions of the real objects of the common district school, seems to be inconsiderate if not preposterous; for as Miss Marsh truly says in her remarks, "mind is formed and character moulded quite as much in a 'country school house' as elsewhere."

Both terms of this school seemed to be a decided success. The order was good at each visit of the committee, and more than the usual degree of interest was manifested by all of the pupils,—the attendance being more regular than in some previous years. The exercises at each examination were all meritorious, particularly in arithmetic, geography and composition. Ella F. Wood, Emma E. Wood, Addison P. Kidder, Edward R. Caldwell and Freddie H. Strong in the Winter; and the same with Agnes E. Nichols and J. Frank Marshall in the Summer, are reported as being neither absent nor tardy. No. of visitors, Summer 87, Winter 47.

#### DISTRICT NO. X.

Summer Term.—Teacher, Miss Sarah A. Estey of Merrimack. This school in Summer is small, and a very proper one wherein a young teacher may make a beginning as was the case with Miss Estey. She seemed to be interested in her work, and labored with patience and perseverance. Nothing seemed to be wanting in any department except that of order. A little more sternness on the part of the teacher would have been a benefit to the school; and it is quite probable that a larger number of scholars would have acted as an incentive to its developement. Nevertheless, the usual improvement was manifest at the examination. Miss Ella E. Greeley is reported as being absent nor tardy. No. of visitors 31.

The Winter Term was under the instruction of Miss Hannah E. Hardy. Miss H. is an excellent scholar and an accurate, working,

enthusiastic teacher ; and being aided by an intelligent and appreciative class of scholars, the results of her efforts were decidedly gratifying and heartily approved by the citizens of the district. The order was excellent,—whispering and all forms of communication having been entirely suspended. The attempt to abolish this pernicious habit the past year, has met the approbation of teachers and all order-loving pupils ; having been quite successful in more than half of our schools. The evil should be completely eradicated and may be by persevering effort. The usual number of visitors were present at the examination and were apparently well pleased with all the exercises ; it being evident that teacher and scholar had performed their respective duties with faithfulness. The declamations and compositions are seldom surpassed. Algebra, Philosophy, Physical Geography, Geology and Latin were among the studies pursued. No. of visitors 35.

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#### GENERAL REMARKS.

In taking a retrospective view of the past year, your committee is gratified to report the general condition of the schools as rather improving than otherwise. Although a few do not occupy as high a rank as in years past,—several of the older and more advanced scholars having retired ; others are gradually increasing in numbers and intelligence ; and it is believed that, in the few years experience of your committee, our schools as a whole never stood higher nor been conducted with more substantial profit. Still there are many imperfections susceptible of removal. One prominent hindrance is to be found in the large number of absences. The loss the past year has been nearly one fifth of the time—to say nothing of the indirect loss to the other members of the school. Who is responsible for the incalculable amount of injury done to our children by a class of scholars who are habitually absent from school two or more days in a week, and seldom enter the school-room for an hour after the proper time in the morning, invariably causing others to be indifferent and careless, and thus most decidedly retard the progress of the classes to which they belong ?—All good citizens may well inquire by what right their neighbors may be thus allowed to hinder the advancement and demoralize the habits of their children.

To sum up the whole matter in as few words as possible, in order to secure the best results from our schools, we need to have comfortable, attractive and well furnished school-houses ; teachers of the highest qualifications, literary and moral ; the deep interest of parents, shown by frequent visits and by co-operation with the



teacher in securing regularity of attendance and in enforcing the regulations of the school.

Finally, fellow citizens, let us all strive to learn and act well the respective duties we owe ourselves and future generations, and consider no sacrifice too great for the healthful developement of that institution upon which hang the vital interests of a free people, and the perpetuity of our national existence. As sons of noble sires may we never prove recreant and prodigal to the inheritance left us, but while Puritanic blood courses our veins, prove true to our educational interests, to science, to humanity, and God ; and thus fortify ourselves and posterity impregnably against the assaults of ignorance and vice, falsehood and error, disloyalty, anarchy and treason.

In closing this report, I have to return many thanks to friends, teachers and committees for the kindness, sympathy and courtesy uniformly shown me in the prosecution of my official duties and most cordially commend the important and responsible trust to some one who has more time to devote to its various claims.

D. O. SMITH,  
Superintending School Committee.

Hudson, March, 1864.

teacher in securing regularity of attendance and in enforcing the regulations of the school. Finally, fellow citizens, let us all strive to learn and act well the respective duties we owe ourselves and future generations, and consider no sacrifice too great for the intellectual development of that institution upon which hang the vital interests of a free people, and the perpetuity of our national existence. As sons of noble stock may we never prove recreant and plodding to the inheritance left us, but while patriotic blood courses our veins, prove true to our educational interests, to science, to humanity, and God; and thus for ever ourselves and posterity impregnable against the assaults of ignorance and vice, falsehood and error, disloyalty, anarchy and treason.

In closing this report, I have to return many thanks to friends, teachers and committees for the kindness, sympathy and courtesy uniformly shown me in the prosecution of my official duties and most cordially commend the important and responsible trust to some one who has more time to devote to its various duties.

D. O. SMITH,  
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Hudson, March, 1884.





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